

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A microwavable cooking apparatus for cooking bacon and the like, comprising:

a container, said container having at least one container sidewall, an inner and outer surface, an open end, and a laterally projecting rim at the open end defining a rim undersurface;

a lid, ~~said lid including a body having a top wall dimensioned to extend across and close the open end of said container;~~ and

a cooking rack removeably suspended from said lid, said cooking rack comprising ~~consisting of~~ a plurality of radially extending vanes ~~said cooking rack being~~ dimensioned to fit within said container.

2. (Currently amended) The microwavable apparatus of claim 1, wherein said lid includes a bore defined by a bore wall ~~the top wall of said lid includes at least one bore wall defining a centrally located bore extending perpendicularly through said lid.~~

3. (Currently amended) The microwavable apparatus of claim 2, wherein a plurality of tabs extend laterally from said bore wall into said bore ~~said bore wall includes a plurality of laterally extending tabs positioned within said bore.~~

4. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 1, wherein a portion of the top wall of said lid is substantially dome-shaped.

5. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 1, wherein a handle is connected to said lid.

6. (Original) The microwavable apparatus of claim 5, wherein a first portion of said handle projects laterally from said lid and a second portion of the handle projects downward from the distal end of said first portion of said handle.

7. (Previously presented) The microwavable apparatus of claim 1, wherein a plurality of container locks are mounted on said lid for movement between a locked position and an unlocked position.

8. (Currently amended) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 7, wherein said container locks each include a cam section ~~[[to]]~~ which engages ~~and forces~~ said rim undersurface and forces said the inner surface of said container against the lid when the container locks are in the locked position.~~in the locked position of the container locks.~~

9. (Currently amended) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 7, wherein said lid ~~includes an outer sidewall extending outwardly from the periphery of said top wall,~~ comprises a lock mount for each container lock ~~mounted on said outer wall and extending outwardly therefrom,~~ a cam opening formed in said ~~outer wall adjacent to said lock mount,~~ each said container lock being mounted for pivotal movement on said lock mount and including a cam section which extends through the cam opening in said lock mount outer wall, said cam section operating to engage the undersurfaces of said rim against said body in the locked position of the container lock.

10. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 7, wherein each said container lock includes an operating lever connected to pivot said container lock between the locked and unlocked positions.

11. (Currently amended) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 10, wherein said operating lever includes a clasp dimensioned to securely engage the outer sidewall of said lid, when said container lock is in the locked position.

12. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of radially extending vanes are spaced substantially equidistant from one another.

13. (Currently amended) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim [[12]] 2, wherein ~~the plurality of vanes comprising said of said cooking rack is removably suspended by a stem positioned~~ rack includes an upwardly extending stem dimensioned to fit within said bore.

14. (Currently amended) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim [[13]] 3, wherein said cooking rack includes a stem positioned within said bore, said stem comprising a plurality of radially extending vanes, and wherein said cooking rack is suspended to said lid by a stem is comprised of a plurality of a radially extending vanes, said the plurality of radially extending vanes of said stem being dimensioned to engaged with said tabs fit between said tabs and secure said lid to said container.

15. (Currently amended) A microwavable cooking apparatus for cooking bacon and the like, comprising:

an outer container, said outer container having at least one container sidewall, an inner and outer surface, an open end and a laterally projecting rim at the container open end defining a rim undersurface;

an inner container, said inner container having at least one container sidewall, an inner and outer surface, and an open end and dimensioned to fit within said outer container;

a lid, ~~said lid including a body having a top wall dimensioned to extend across and close the open end of said container;~~ and

a cooking rack removeably suspended from said lid, said cooking rack being comprised of consisting of a plurality of radially extending vanes and, said cooking rack being dimensioned to fit within said inner container.

16. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 15, wherein said outer container covers a predefined portion of said inner container, and wherein a microwave

reflecting surface is positioned between said outer container and said inner container.

17. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 16, wherein a vacuum seal is formed between said outer container and said inner container.

18. (Currently amended) The microwavable apparatus of claim 15, wherein said lid includes a bore defined by a bore wall ~~wherein the top wall of said lid includes at least one bore wall defining a centrally located bore extending perpendicularly through said lid.~~

19. (Currently amended) The microwavable apparatus of claim 18, a plurality of tabs extend laterally from said bore wall into said bore ~~wherein said bore wall includes a plurality of laterally extending tabs positioned within said bore.~~

20. (Currently amended) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 15, wherein at least a portion of the top surface of ~~top wall of said lid~~ is substantially dome-shaped.

21. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 15, wherein a handle is connected to said lid.

22. (Original) The microwavable apparatus of claim 21, wherein a first portion of said handle projects laterally from said lid and a second portion of the handle projects downward from the distal end of said first portion of said handle.

23. (Previously presented) The microwavable apparatus of claim 15, wherein a plurality of container locks are mounted on said lid for movement between a locked position and an unlocked position.

24. (Currently amended) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 15, wherein said container locks each include a cam section ~~[[to]]~~ which engages and forces said rim undersurface and forces said the inner surface of said container against the lid when the

container locks are in the locked position.~~in the locked position of the container locks.~~

25. (Currently amended) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 15, wherein said lid ~~includes an outer sidewall extending outwardly from the periphery of said top wall,~~ comprises a lock mount for each container lock mounted on said outer wall and extending outwardly therefrom, a cam opening formed in said ~~outer wall adjacent to said lock mount,~~ each said container lock being mounted for pivotal movement on said lock mount and including a cam section which extends through the cam opening in said lock mount ~~outer wall,~~ said cam section operating to engage the undersurfaces of said rim against said body in the locked position of the container lock.

26. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 23, wherein each said container lock includes an operating lever connected to pivot said container lock between the locked and unlocked positions.

27. (Currently amended) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 26, wherein said operating lever includes a clasp dimensioned to securely engage the outer sidewall of said lid when said container lock is in the locked position.

28. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 15, wherein the plurality of radially extending vanes are spaced substantially equidistant from one another.

29. (Currently amended) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 18, wherein ~~the plurality of vanes comprising said of said cooking rack is removably suspended by a stem positioned~~ rack includes an upwardly extending stem dimensioned to fit within said bore.

30. (Currently amended) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim ~~[[29]]~~ 19, wherein said cooking rack includes a stem positioned within said bore, said stem comprising a plurality of radially extending vanes, and wherein said cooking rack is suspended to said lid by a stem is comprised of a plurality of a radially extending vanes, said the plurality of

radially extending vanes of said stem being dimensioned to engaged with said tabs fit
~~between said tabs and secure said lid to said container.~~

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Original) The microwavable apparatus of claim 1, wherein two container locks are mounted on said lid for movement between a locked position and an unlocked position, said container locks being positioned such that in the locked position the container sidewall has an elliptical distortion.

36. (Original) The microwavable apparatus of claim 15, wherein two container locks are mounted on said lid for movement between a locked position and an unlocked position, said container locks being positioned such that in the locked position the container sidewall has an elliptical distortion.

37. (Original) The microwavable apparatus of claim 7, wherein at least one laterally projecting arm is coupled to at least one of said plurality of container locks, and wherein said at least one laterally projecting arm engages at least one of the container sidewall and the container rim when the lock is in the locked position.

38. (Original) The microwavable apparatus of claim 23, wherein at least one laterally projecting arm is coupled to at least one of said plurality of container locks, and wherein said at least one laterally projecting arm engages at least one of the container sidewall and the container rim when the lock is in the locked position.

39. (Original) The microwavable apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one of the inner surface and the outer surface of said container is at least partially covered with microwave reflecting surface.

40. (Original) The microwavable apparatus of claim 15, wherein at least one of the inner surface of said inner container, the outer surface of said inner container, the inner surface of said outer container, and the outer surface of said outer container is at least partially covered with microwave reflecting surface.

41. (Original) The microwavable apparatus of claim 39, wherein said microwave reflecting surface is aluminum foil.

42. (Original) The microwavable apparatus of claim 40, wherein said microwave reflecting surface is aluminum foil.

43. (New) The microwaveable apparatus of claim 9, wherein one end of said container lock is enlarged to deter involuntary removal of container lock from said lock mount, and wherein said enlarged end of container lock has a split end, said split end being compressible to facilitate voluntary removal of said container lock from said lock mount.

44. (New) The microwaveable apparatus of claim 25, wherein one end of said container lock is enlarged to deter involuntary removal of container lock from said lock mount, and wherein said enlarged end of container lock has a split end, said split end being compressible to facilitate voluntary removal of said container lock from said lock mount.